

House Resolution 337

By: Representatives Smith of the 113th, May of the 111th, O'Neal of the 146th, Hill of the 21st,
Burns of the 157th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Rotary International and inviting certain district governors thereof to appear
2 before the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Rotary International, founded on February 23, 1905, in Chicago, Illinois, is the
4 world's first and one of the largest nonprofit service organizations; and

5 WHEREAS, there are over 1.2 million Rotary club members comprised of professional and
6 business leaders in over 31,000 clubs in more than 165 countries; and

7 WHEREAS, the Rotary motto "Service Above Self" inspires members to provide
8 humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and promote good will and peace in
9 the world; and

10 WHEREAS, Rotary funds club projects and sponsors volunteers with community expertise
11 to provide medical supplies, health care, clean water, food production, job training, and
12 education to millions in need, particularly in developing countries; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1985, Rotary launched Polio Plus and spearheaded efforts with the World
14 Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF to
15 immunize the children of the world against polio; and

16 WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the
17 threshold of eradicating the disease; and

18 WHEREAS, Rotary is the world's largest privately funded source of international
19 scholarships and promotes international understanding through scholarships, exchange
20 programs, and humanitarian grants; and

1 WHEREAS, more than 35,000 students from 110 countries have studied abroad since 1947
2 as Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars; and

3 WHEREAS, Rotary's Group Study Exchange program has helped more than 46,000 young
4 professionals explore their career fields in other countries; and

5 WHEREAS, 8,000 secondary school students each year experience life in another country
6 through Rotary's Youth Exchange Program; and

7 WHEREAS, there are over 12,000 Rotary club members in more than 200 clubs throughout
8 this state sponsoring service projects to address such critical issues as poverty, health,
9 hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities and abroad; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia's three Rotary Districts were able to fund matching grants for local
11 community projects which include, but are not limited to, literacy, water projects, guide dog
12 training facilities, special needs for boys and girls, wheelchairs, building of wheelchair
13 ramps, and computers to reduce educational disadvantage of children; and these grants of
14 \$60,000.00 with club matching totaled \$120,000.00 in one of three Georgia districts alone;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia has the unique Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) whereby 72
17 students from 31 countries will be sponsored and hosted by Georgia Rotary clubs during
18 2004-2005. The annual average number of GRSP students over the last five years is 84
19 students studying for one year at Georgia colleges and universities.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 the members of this body commend Rotary International upon the occasion of the 100th
22 anniversary of the organization's founding.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the three district governors of Rotary International for
24 the State of Georgia are invited to appear before the House of Representatives on such date
25 and at such time to be determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
27 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Rotary International.